



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Town of Culpeper  
400 S. Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Chandler Street Wells become Operational**

The Town of Culpeper began normal operation of the Chandler Street Well and Treatment System as a supplemental supply to the existing surface water supply starting January 26, 2015. The Chandler Street Well and Treatment System is comprised of three wells and a combined treatment system with a possible daily water withdrawal rate of 600,000-900,000 gallons per day and an emergency supply rating of 1.2 million gallons per day (MGD) as reported by Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, LLC. This new system is capable of providing a significant percentage of the Town's current average daily potable water demand. Interim Town Manager, Chris Hively stated "If the building boom had lasted 6 months longer, this valuable well capacity would have been lost forever since all three wells are located on property previously approved as housing sites within the Estates of Mountain Brook subdivision that is currently being developed."

In November 2009, the Town of Culpeper initiated a groundwater investigation study to identify and secure an additional source water supply for the Town of Culpeper and the Culpeper Environs. This study was initiated to insure potable water capacity was available to meet the projected demands for the next 30-40 years. In addition, securing a groundwater source would provide an emergency backup if the Town's surface water supply was ever compromised by contamination or other manmade or natural disaster.

To complete this study, the Town contracted with Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, LLC (EGGI). Utilizing a high technical 4 stage process, EGGI identified and ranked exploratory well drilling targets based on projected water quality and quantity,

drilled test wells on the highest rated drilling targets, converted the highest yield wells to production wells, and provided long term testing of the production wells to determine sustainable pumping capacities and water quality results. To date, EGGI has identified 8 production wells with a possible daily withdrawal capacity of 1.6 – 2.4 MGD and an emergency capacity of 3.2 MGD. Once connected into the Town system, it will provide a 100% backup to our existing supply and capacity required to meet projected demands for the next 30-40 years.

The three Chandler Street wells were the first production wells identified. Once identified, the Town contracted with MBD Consulting Engineers, P.A. to provide the design for the permanent well houses and required treatment. A construction contract was later awarded to English Construction to complete the project. To date, the Town has spent approximately \$2.6 million to identify and secure groundwater for the Town.

In January, a contract was awarded to WW Associates to complete the design for three additional production wells with an anticipated construction completion date of mid 2016. The two remaining production wells will be secured for future connection to the Town system, as needed. This project is anticipated to cost \$3.8 million to complete.

Currently the Town of Culpeper utilizes Lake Pelham, augmented by additional storage capacity in Mountain Run Lake, as the town's sole source of drinking water supply. This lake system has a projected safe yield of 5.1 MGD, although it may not be practical or possible to treat 100% of the projected safe yield. The Town has a surface treatment plant capable of treating 4.0 MGD of the surface water supply.

Currently the Town has a peak month potable water usage of 2.5 MGD. This usage is projected to double over the next 20 to 30 years.

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